



## Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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Alaska Peninsula  
Aleutian Chain  
Bristol Bay  
Kodiak Island  
Pribilof Islands

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Business financing workshop to be held in Dillingham and King Salmon

(Anchorage, AK) – Free workshops on business financing resources will be held in Dillingham on October 5 and King Salmon on October 6. The workshops will feature presenters from the Alaska Division of Investments, the Alaska Commercial Fisheries and Agriculture Bank, Alaska InvestNET, Alaska Growth Capital, and Bristol Bay area financial institutions and business assistance agencies. The Dillingham workshop will be held at the UAF Bristol Bay campus and begins at 8:00 a.m. In King Salmon, the workshop will be held at the Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center and begins at 9:00 a.m.

The workshops will include informational presentations from each agency, which will be followed by an appointment session in the afternoon. During the appointment session, workshop participants will meet one-on-one with the presenters to find out more about the various programs and ask specific questions unique to their business or development idea.

“This workshop is designed to inform existing and aspiring business owners about traditional and alternative business financing resources,” stated Wanetta Ayers, executive director of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC). “There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit in Southwest Alaska. By offering workshops such as ‘Financing for Business,’ we hope to provide encouragement and resources that will capitalize on that spirit and help overcome barriers to business start-up, expansion and retention.”

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To register for the workshop, visit the SWAMC web site at [www.swamc.org](http://www.swamc.org), call (907) 562-7380, or e-mail [admin@swamc.org](mailto:admin@swamc.org). Pre-registration is required.

Featured workshop speakers include:

**Lujean Fedotov, loan officer – Alaska Division of Investments**

The Alaska Division of Investments' primary responsibility is to administer and service eleven state loan programs. These programs are designed to promote economic development through direct state lending in industries that are not adequately serviced by the private sector. Active lending is currently available in four program areas: Commercial Fishing, Fisheries Enhancement, Small Business Economic Development (SBED), and Rural Development Initiative Fund.

**JoAnn Rodamaker, senior vice president – Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank (CFAB)**

CFAB is a private, member-owned cooperative with the stated vision to be the premier lender to the commercial fishing, agriculture, timber, tourism and resource based industries of Alaska.

**Rick Wolk, executive director – Alaska InvestNET**

Alaska InvestNET is a statewide non-profit corporation helping entrepreneurs access investors by providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. Wolk also teaches entrepreneurship at Alaska Pacific University.

**Mike Orr, business analyst – Alaska Growth Capital**

Alaska Growth Capital provides a financing alternative to businesses that may have trouble gaining access to traditional bank financing. AGC provides stand-alone financing or participates with banks in joint financing. Rural, minority-owned, or

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technology-oriented businesses are of special interest to AGC. The Denali Commission has invested in AGC to help stimulate private sector business in distressed rural Alaska communities.

Bristol Bay area bankers have also been invited to participate in the workshops. The presentations will also include **Pam Hagan**, business coordinator at the UAF Bristol Bay Campus (in Dillingham) and **Izetta Chambers**, manager of the Lake & Peninsula Borough Business Development Center (in King Salmon).

For more information about the workshops, visit [www.swamc.org](http://www.swamc.org) or call (907) 562-7380.

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*The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is a regional membership organization that advances the collective interests of the people, businesses, and communities in southwest Alaska (Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Kodiak Island Borough, and Lake and Peninsula Borough). SWAMC helps promote economic opportunities to improve the quality of life and influences long-term responsible development. SWAMC is designated an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) by the Alaska Department of Community & Economic Development, and an Economic Development District (EDD) as designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.*